

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 XMB-04

/050 W

-----068148 022216Z /50

R 011605Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3667

INFO AMEMBASSY MONROC A

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS CONAKRY 2056

ROME PASS RCAA, MONROVIA PASS FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, GV

SUBJECT: AIRCRAFT LEASE PROPOSAL FOR GUINEA

REF: A. STATE 258205 B. CONAKRY 1999

1. IN SEPTEMBER AND EARLY OCTOBER GOG WANTED TO MEET THREE OBJECTIVES: A) LEASE B-707 IN GUINEAN COLORS FOR CURRENT PILGRIMAGE SEASON FOR PRESTIGE AND POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS; B) PLACE B-707--NOT NECESSARILY SAME PLANE--UNDER LONG TERM LEASE-PURCHASE FOR USE AS GENERAL CARGO AND/OR PASSENGER CRAFT AND; C) PURCHASE OF B-737. B-737 PURCHASE IS ON TRACK BUT 707 LEASE PLANS HAVE FALLEN APART. GUINEA TRIED TO OBTAIN AIRCRAFT FOR HADJ SEASON ON EXTREMELY SHORT NOTICE AND ULTIMATELY GAVE UP DUE TO PRICE AND TIMING CONSIDERATIONS (REF B).

2. APPARENTLY 707'S WERE NOT AVAILABLE DUE TO GENERAL TIGHTNESS OF 707 MARKET AND PEAK PERIOD DEMAND OF HADJ SEASON. UNITED AIRLINES DC-8 LEASED THROUGH ITTEL REMAINED UNCLASSIFIED

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POSSIBILITY, HOWEVER, GOG THOUGHT PRICE WAS TOO HIGH. (COMMENT: MINIMUM 450 BLOCK HOURS IN THREE-MONTH REQUIREMENT IN ITTEL'S OFFER COULD PROBABLY HAVE TRANSPORTED ALL GUINEA'S PILGRIMS THREE TIMES ROUND TRIP.) GUINEA HAS NOW BEGUN PILGRIMAGES WITH OLD SOVIET-BUILT ILLUSHIN-18'S AS IN PAST YEARS.

3. GUINEA IS CONTINUING ITS SEARCH FOR A LEASE-PURCHASE 707 THROUGH BOEING'S PARIS OFFICE ALTHOUGH ONE BOEING OFFICIAL COMMENTED TO EMBOFF THAT BOEING TRAFFIC STUDY (NOW IN PREPARATION) WOULD SHOW 707 TO BE UNECONOMIC FOR GUINEA.

4. EMBASSY JUDGMENT IS THAT WORLD AIRWAYS OFFER PER REFTEL WOULD BE SIX WEEKS TOO LATE. DESPITE THIS, EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR U.S. AIRLINES WISHING TO PROVIDE MANAGEMENT, TRAINING OR OTHER SERVICES TO AIR GUINEA TO MAKE INITIAL CONTACTS. MAINLAND

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